

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 AID-05
OMB-01 /128 W
-----117485 172039Z /62

R 151000Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6337
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1240

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, IZ, ET
SUBJ: IRAQ CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS AS POPULAR FRONT
LEADER VISITS BAGHDAD

REF BAGHDAD 958

1. RAMADAN MOHAMMED NOUR, SYG OF ERITREAN POPULAR
LIBERATION FRONT, VISITED BAGHDAD JUNE 11-14.
ALTHOUGH NOUR'S OFFICIAL HOST WAS BAATH PARTY NATIONAL
COMMAND, HE PROBABLY MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS
WELL. FRONT PAGE COVERAGE BY IRAQI PRESS SUGGESTS
HE WAS RECEIVED AT HIGH LEVEL.

2. NOUR MADE USUAL STATEMENTS IN PRAISE OF IRAQI
SUPPORT BUT PROVIDED NO DETAILS. ON DEPARTURE HE SIAD
THAT ERITREAN REVOLUTION REFUSED ALL PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS
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TO STRUGGLE WITH ETHIOPIA. HE STRESSED SELF-DETERMINATION
FOR ARAB PEOPLE OF ERITREA WITHOUT CONDITIONS.

3. JUST PRIOR TO NOUR'S ARRIVAL, BAAATH NATIONAL
COMMAND MEMBER BADRIDDIN MUDATHAR (A SUDANESE) SPOKE
TO SOMALI WORKERS' GROUP OF IRAQ'S CONTINUING SUPPORT
FOR ERITREAN SELF-DETERMINATION. DESPITE THE NATURE

OF HIS AUDIENCE, MUDATHAR'S PUBLISHED REMARKS GLOSSED
OVER OGADEN ISSUE. HE ALSO TRIED HARD AND
UNCONVINCINGLY TO SQUARE IRAQI-SOVIET "STRATEGIC
ALLIANCE" WITH IRAQI SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: IF IRAQ TRIED TO MOVE EPLF IN DIRECTION
OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THERE IS NO REFLECTION OF
SUCCESS IN NOUR'S REMARKS ON DEPARTURE. SUDANESE EMBOFF
COMMENTED TO US THAT WHILE IRAQ SUPPORTS ALL ERITREAN
GROUPS WITH BOTH MONEY AND MILITARY AID, ITS CONTINUED
BACKING OF OSMAN SALEH SABBE TENDS TO UNDERMINE SUDANESE
EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ERITREAN UNITY. IRAQIS MAY RETAIN
HOPE THAT ONE OR ANOTHER ERITREAN LEADER COULD EMERGE
AS A FOCUS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. ARRIVAL IN
BAGHDAD JUNE 14 IS PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER, RECENTLY IN
HAVANA, ALSO SUGGESTS IRAQI INTEREST IN ERITREAN
COMPROMISE.
PECK

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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